

#EO-41
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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration

October 10, 2003

Richard Allen
Research Analyst
Cherokee Nation
P.O. Box 948
Tahlequah, OK 74465

Re: STB Finance Docket 34284, Southwest Gulf Railroad Company –
Construction and Operation Exemption – Medina County, TX

Dear Mr. Allen:

The Surface Transportation Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is conducting an environmental review of Southwest Gulf Railroad Company's (SGR) proposed rail construction and operation in Medina County, Texas, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and related environmental regulations, including the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

Enclosed for your review please find a copy of the Preliminary Cultural Resources Assessment report for the proposed rail construction and operation in Medina County, Texas. Copies of this report are also being sent to the Texas Historical Commission, the Comanche Nation, the Kickapoo Tribe, and the consulting parties for this proceeding (the Medina County Environmental Action Association, the Medina County Historical Commission, the Quihi and New Fountain Historical Society, the Schweer's Historical Foundation, and SGR).

The report sets forth the SEA's preliminary findings and recommendations based on SEA's studies to date. Chapter 1 briefly describes the proposed action and alternatives. Chapter 2 contains a cultural context overview of the proposed project area by providing a summary of the prehistory and history of Medina County and a brief discussion of known and potential historic resources located in the areas of potential effects. Chapter 3 discusses the results of SEA's initial studies, and includes SEA's opinion of the project's potential effects on historic properties and preliminary recommendations for treatment and/or mitigation.

Pursuant to section 106 of the NHPA, SEA is submitting this report for your review and comment. We request your written comments on this report by **November 10, 2003**. Please reference Finance Docket 34284 in all correspondence regarding this proceeding. Comments should be sent to:

Rini Ghosh
Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 K Street, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20423-0001

I look forward to working with you to ensure proper completion of the section 106 process for this proceeding. If you have questions regarding this report or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me or Rini Ghosh of my staff at (202) 565-1539.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and a stylized "R".

Victoria Rutson
Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis

Enclosure

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration

October 10, 2003

Mr. Jim Arterberry
c/o Comanche Nation
P.O. Box 908
Lawton, OK 73502

Re: STB Finance Docket 34284, Southwest Gulf Railroad Company –
Construction and Operation Exemption – Medina County, TX

Dear Mr. Arterberry:

The Surface Transportation Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is conducting an environmental review of Southwest Gulf Railroad Company's (SGR) proposed rail construction and operation in Medina County, Texas, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and related environmental regulations, including the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

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Victoria Rutson
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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration

October 10, 2003

Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas
HC 1
Box 9700
Eagle Pass, TX 78852

Re: STB Finance Docket 34284, Southwest Gulf Railroad Company –
Construction and Operation Exemption – Medina County, TX

Dear Tribal Representative:

The Surface Transportation Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is conducting an environmental review of Southwest Gulf Railroad Company's (SGR) proposed rail construction and operation in Medina County, Texas, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and related environmental regulations, including the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration

October 10, 2003

Dr. Robert Fitzgerald
President
Medina County Environmental Action Association
202 CR 450
Hondo, TX 78861

Re: STB Finance Docket 34284, Southwest Gulf Railroad Company –
Construction and Operation Exemption – Medina County, TX

Dear Dr. Fitzgerald:

As you know, the Surface Transportation Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is conducting an environmental review of Southwest Gulf Railroad Company's proposed rail construction and operation in Medina County, Texas, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and related environmental regulations, including the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). By letter dated July 21, 2003, we designated your organization as a consulting party to the section 106 process of NHPA.

Enclosed for your review please find a copy of the Preliminary Cultural Resources Assessment report for the proposed rail construction and operation. The report sets forth the SEA's preliminary findings and recommendations based on SEA's studies to date. Chapter 1 briefly describes the proposed action and alternatives. Chapter 2 contains a cultural context overview of the proposed project area by providing a summary of the prehistory and history of Medina County and a brief discussion of known and potential historic resources located in the areas of potential effects. Chapter 3 discusses the results of SEA's initial studies, and includes SEA's opinion of the project's potential effects on historic properties and preliminary recommendations for treatment and/or mitigation.

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cc: Dr. Lynn Kitchen

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration

October 10, 2003

Mr. Robert Hancock
Chairman
Medina County Historical Commission
Medina County Courthouse
Hondo, TX 78861

Re: STB Finance Docket 34284, Southwest Gulf Railroad Company –
Construction and Operation Exemption – Medina County, TX

Dear Mr. Hancock:

As you know, the Surface Transportation Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is conducting an environmental review of Southwest Gulf Railroad Company's proposed rail construction and operation in Medina County, Texas, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and related environmental regulations, including the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). By letter dated August 8, 2003, we invited you to participate as a consulting party to the section 106 process of NHPA.

Enclosed for your review please find a copy of the Preliminary Cultural Resources Assessment report for the proposed rail construction and operation. The report sets forth the SEA's preliminary findings and recommendations based on SEA's studies to date. Chapter 1 briefly describes the proposed action and alternatives. Chapter 2 contains a cultural context overview of the proposed project area by providing a summary of the prehistory and history of Medina County and a brief discussion of known and potential historic resources located in the areas of potential effects. Chapter 3 discusses the results of SEA's initial studies, and includes SEA's opinion of the project's potential effects on historic properties and preliminary recommendations for treatment and/or mitigation.

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration

October 10, 2003

Mrs. Cynthia Lindsey
Quihi & New Fountain Historical Society
P.O. Box 93
190 CR 4512
Hondo, TX 78861

Re: STB Finance Docket 34284, Southwest Gulf Railroad Company –
Construction and Operation Exemption – Medina County, TX

Dear Mrs. Lindsey:

As you know, the Surface Transportation Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is conducting an environmental review of Southwest Gulf Railroad Company's proposed rail construction and operation in Medina County, Texas, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and related environmental regulations, including the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). By letter dated August 20, 2003, you accepted our invitation to be a consulting party to the section 106 process of NHPA.

Enclosed for your review please find a copy of the Preliminary Cultural Resources Assessment report for the proposed rail construction and operation. The report sets forth the SEA's preliminary findings and recommendations based on SEA's studies to date. Chapter 1 briefly describes the proposed action and alternatives. Chapter 2 contains a cultural context overview of the proposed project area by providing a summary of the prehistory and history of Medina County and a brief discussion of known and potential historic resources located in the areas of potential effects. Chapter 3 discusses the results of SEA's initial studies, and includes SEA's opinion of the project's potential effects on historic properties and preliminary recommendations for treatment and/or mitigation.

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Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration

October 10, 2003

Mr. Donald Schoch
President
Schweers Historical Foundation
2405 IH-35 South, Suite 102
New Braunfels, TX 78130-8817

Re: STB Finance Docket 34284, Southwest Gulf Railroad Company –
Construction and Operation Exemption – Medina County, TX

Dear Mr. Schoch:

As you know, the Surface Transportation Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is conducting an environmental review of Southwest Gulf Railroad Company's proposed rail construction and operation in Medina County, Texas, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and related environmental regulations, including the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). By letter dated August 8, 2003, we invited you to participate as a consulting party to the section 106 process of NHPA.

Enclosed for your review please find a copy of the Preliminary Cultural Resources Assessment report for the proposed rail construction and operation. The report sets forth the SEA's preliminary findings and recommendations based on SEA's studies to date. Chapter 1 briefly describes the proposed action and alternatives. Chapter 2 contains a cultural context overview of the proposed project area by providing a summary of the prehistory and history of Medina County and a brief discussion of known and potential historic resources located in the areas of potential effects. Chapter 3 discusses the results of SEA's initial studies, and includes SEA's opinion of the project's potential effects on historic properties and preliminary recommendations for treatment and/or mitigation.

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration

October 10, 2003

Mr. David Coburn
Steptoe & Johnson, LLP
1330 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036-1795

Re: STB Finance Docket 34284, Southwest Gulf Railroad Company –
Construction and Operation Exemption – Medina County, TX

Dear Mr. Coburn:

As you know, the Surface Transportation Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is conducting an environmental review of Southwest Gulf Railroad Company's (SGR) proposed rail construction and operation in Medina County, Texas, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and related environmental regulations, including the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Pursuant to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's regulations for implementing the section 106 process of NHPA, we have identified SGR as a consulting party to the section 106 process.

Enclosed for your review please find two copies of the Preliminary Cultural Resources Assessment report for the proposed rail construction and operation. The report sets forth the SEA's preliminary findings and recommendations based on SEA's studies to date. Chapter 1 briefly describes the proposed action and alternatives. Chapter 2 contains a cultural context overview of the proposed project area by providing a summary of the prehistory and history of Medina County and a brief discussion of known and potential historic resources located in the areas of potential effects. Chapter 3 discusses the results of SEA's initial studies, and includes SEA's opinion of the project's potential effects on historic properties and preliminary recommendations for treatment and/or mitigation.

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Enclosures

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration

October 10, 2003

Ms. Pam Opiela
Project Reviewer
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711-2276

Re: STB Finance Docket 34284, Southwest Gulf Railroad Company –
Construction and Operation Exemption – Medina County, TX

Dear Ms. Opiela:

Enclosed for your review please find two copies of the Preliminary Cultural Resources Assessment report for the proposed rail construction and operation in Medina County, Texas. Copies of this report are also being sent to the Cherokee Nation, the Comanche Nation, the Kickapoo Tribe, and the consulting parties for this proceeding (the Medina County Environmental Action Association, the Medina County Historical Commission, the Quihi and New Fountain Historical Society, the Schweer's Historical Foundation, and Southwest Gulf Railroad Company).

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Pursuant to section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, SEA is submitting this report for your review and comment. We request your written comments on this report by **November 10, 2003**. Please reference Finance Docket 34284 in all correspondence regarding this proceeding. Comments should be sent to:

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Section of Environmental Analysis
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